

REMARKS

Claims 10-16 are presented for consideration, with Claims 10, 15 and 16 being independent.

The abstract has been replaced to better set forth technical aspects of the invention. It is submitted that the new abstract overcomes the objection set forth on page 2 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-6 and 9 have been cancelled and replaced with new Claims 10-16. It is submitted that Claims 10-16 are consonant with previously presented Claims 1-9. Support for the new claims can be found on page 7, line 11, *et. seq.*, of the specification.

Claims 1-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Jaszlics '744 in view of the Lescinsky publication. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection, Claims 1-6 and 9 have been cancelled. This rejection is therefore deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that Claims 10-16 are patentable over the applied art.

Claim 10 of Applicants' invention relates to an image processing apparatus for compositing an image of a virtual object and a physical space image to generate a mixed reality image and causing an HMD to display the mixed reality image. The apparatus includes a database which holds data used for generating the image of the virtual object, an image capturing unit which is attached to the HMD and captures the physical space image, a first measurement unit which measures a position and orientation of the HMD, and an object manipulation unit which is used by a user in order to operate a position and orientation of the virtual object. In addition, a second measurement unit measures a position and orientation of the object manipulation unit, an operation panel, positioned in a physical space, displays an operation panel

image used for editing the virtual object and is capable of receiving a user instruction of editing the virtual object, and an operation panel image generation unit generates the operation panel image by using the data held in the database. A rendering unit updates the data held in the database according to the user instruction received via the operation panel and the measurement result of the second measurement unit and renders, by using the updated data, the image of the virtual object according to the measurement results of the first and second measurement units, and a composition unit composites the rendered image of the virtual object and the captured physical space image to generate the mixed reality image. Finally, an HMD displays the generated mixed reality image.

The Jaszlics patent relates to a system for combining virtual images with real world scenes. In this regard, a range scanner 101 and virtual masking object generation 105 are used to realistically combine the virtual images into real world scenes as part of a computer simulation.

The secondary citation to Lescinsky relates to an interactive scene manipulation that is used for viewing and manipulating 3D scenes and is relied on for presenting a state of each virtual object included in a virtual space to the observer.

With respect to Claim 10 of Applicants' invention, however, neither citation features a head mounted display that includes an attached image capturing unit. Moreover, the cited art fails to include, among other features, an operation panel which is positioned in a physical space to display an operation panel image for editing a virtual object and capable of receiving a user instruction of editing the virtual object, and a rendering unit to update data held in the database according to a user instruction received via the operation panel and the results of measuring a position and orientation of an object manipulation unit.

Claims 14 and 15 relate to an image processing method and a computer readable storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 10. These claims are thus also submitted to be patentable over the art discussed above.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 10, 15 and 16 are patentable. In addition, dependent Claims 11-14 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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